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FOWLING

Only a few barriofolk in Caticugan practice fowling. The birds caught are minor food items. One fairly common method of trapping the galangsiyang (Philippine Glossy Starling: Apolonis panayensis (Scop.)) is to place a large bamboo in a tree. Small openings are cut into each section so the birds will build nests inside. When the young starlings are ready to fly they are taken from the nest, plucked, gutted, salted, and soaked in tuba vinegar. I visited a family in Talo-ot when they were having Sunday meal of about twenty two-week old starlings that had been roasted over coals. I saw about four or five such bamboo nest-traps in Caticugan. (See Plate XXXIII.)[1]

A number of other wild birds are trapped and eaten. The most common are the bontog (both the Barred Button Quail: Turnix suscitator nigrescens (Tweed); and Painted Quail, pitao, Coturnix chinensis lineata (Scop.)); ponay (Pink-necked Green Pigeon: Treron vernans vernans (Linne.)); and the tokmo (Philippine Turtle Dove: Streptopelia bitorquata dusumieri (Temm.)).[8]

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[8] Identification of these birds was made through the use of Jean Delacour and Ernst Mayr, Birds of the Philippines, Macmillan, New York, 1946, and by consultation with Professor Dioscoro S. Rabor, a noted ornithologist of Silliman University, and one especially well-informed on the birds of Negros. Other birds trapped are dalag-dalag or antolihao (Black-naped Oriole: Oriolus chinensis suluensis Sharpe); tibalas (Brown Shrike: Lanius cristatus lucionensis Linn.); tangol-ol (Yellow-vented Bulbul: Pycnonotus goiavier goiavier (Scop.)); manatad (Green-winged Ground Dove: Chalcophaps indica indica (Linne.);

1 [See p. 516, cat 223 or 116 -- Analyst]

2 [Footnote 8, continued on p. 517, cat. 223 or 116 -- Analyst]

20: Hart E-5 (1951) 1954 OA1 Philippines
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P.516

Plate XXXIII

BIRD TRAPS

IN BARRIO CATICUGAN

BALAG-ONG TRAP

SABAY SNARE

CALANGSIYANG TRAP

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Another type of bird trap is the balag-ong. (See Plate XXXIII.)[1] A small noose is suspended from two pieces of bamboo that are placed between bushes where the birds frequently pass, particularly the bontog. The lit-ag is a bird trap in which a noose is placed on the ground while the other end of the twine is tied to a bent branch. The bird steps in the noose, pulls it to escape, releasing the branch, that tightens the noose around the bird's leg. The lit-ag is a popular method of trapping the tangol-ol and tagbaya, particularly in October, although it is not solely limited to these two birds.

Another method of trapping wild birds is a snare (sabay) that is put in the bird nest. (See Plate XXXIII.)[1] One woman trapped three manatads in this manner but when she returned to get the snare "the wild cats had eaten most of them." It is reported that some people throw a butterfly-like net over a nest of wild birds. No such net was seen in Caticugan. Polot is the name for bird liming. The sticky sap of the salngan tree (Agathis Philippinensis Warb.), called salong (known best as Manila copal), is

8 (Continued) sal-ing (Coleto: Sarcops calvus melanonotus Grant); manatael or mana-ol (White-breasted Sea Eagle: Haliaeetus leucogaster (Gmelin)); and the tagbaya (Philippine Bulbul: Microscelis gularis guimarasensis (Steere)). References in Delacour and Mayr, op. cit., are given in the order the birds are mentioned: pp. 241-2; 56; 54; 180-1; 180; 93-4; 253; 170; 175; 94-5; 244-5; 48; and 175-6. One family in the poblacion had two coletos in a cage, for the birds are said to be able to learn to talk. These birds died without learning this skill. Vide Austin L. Rand, "Birds of Negros," Fieldiana, Zoology. Chicago Natural History Museum, V. XXXI, No. 48, (July 12, 1951), pp. 571-96.

1 [See p. 516, cat. 223, --Analyst]

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smeared on branches where the birds often light. I doubt if any Caticugan barriofolk trap birds in this manner.

Birds are sometimes, but rarely, hunted with the blow-gun (supot) and fairly frequently by young boys with sling-shots (tirador). Lake Linao ("calm"; also called danao, i.e., "pool"), above Barrio Balanan, was created by the 1925 earthquake. This small lake attracts flocks of wild ducks. While Caticugan residents rarely hunt the ducks here men from Dumaguete come to hunt them with guns.

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The blow-gun is made from the thornless bamboo, bagakay. This bamboo's long internodes make it excellent for blow-guns. Few blow-guns were seen in Caticugan; the weapon, however, becomes more common in the northern barrios of the Siaton River valley. One blow-gun measured was 6-1/2 feet long, made of several pieces of bagakay glued with a substance obtained from the kiwot insect. The darts (gapasan) are made from thin sticks of bamboo about 2-1/2 feet long, including a 10 inch iron tip; no poison is used. The dart's end is wrapped with kapok to hold compression in the blow-gun barrel. The blow-gun is employed only to hunt wild birds and, more rarely, to shoot river fish.[9] It is my opinion that blow-guns in the Siaton River valley will disappear in a few generations; at least, they seem to have very few useful functions today.

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[9] The Magahats also have a blow-gun (sopot) that is made from bagakay bamboo or reeds. The darts also are wrapped with kapok and the main use appears to be for shooting river fish. No poison is used on the darts. Orasion, op. cit., pp. 75-6.

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Farther north there are said to be a considerable number of manok ihalas (Red Jungle Fowl: Gallus gallus gallus, Linne.) that the barriofolk hunt; some are merely domesticated fowl that have gone wild. There were no wild chickens in Catiesugan and the men did not hunt for them. While the trapping of wild birds is done by both sexes, it is often the sport of young boys. Wild birds furnish a very small part of the diet of only a few families in Catiesugan.

LIZARDS

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One large lizard (ibid) is hunted by some barriofolk although most of them hunt ibid only in periods of acute food shortage. This lizard is usually found in bamboo groves or in the kamansilis trees near the river; it is hunted with the blow-gun, trapped with grated coconut meat, or run down by dogs. Large ibid are said to weigh as much as 10 pounds. The meat, boiled in coconut "milk," "tastes like chicken." Another large lizard (halo) found in the locality is not eaten. [252]

COLLECTING WILD HONEY

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Once the hives of wild honey bees (potyaken) were hunted for their honey. Few wild beehives are found today in Catiesugan or environs. When the hives are found accidentally, the honey is collected; the people are fond of it. One informant said that when he was a young man